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All communications or business letters should be addressed to THE VIRGINIA CITIZEN, Irvington, Va., to receive prompt attention.

Friday, June 14, 1901.

From information that we glean we are more than ever convinced that a majority of the people of Northumberland favor Mr. Swanson for Governor. While the Montague men at Heathsville on last Monday outnumbered nearly two to one those who voted for Mr. Swanson, and won squarely the fight, the fact that only 113 voted for Swanson does not indicate the relative strength of the two candidates. More than three times that number had declared it their purpose to be on hand for Mr. Swanson, but at the last moment were persuaded to stay at home. Mr. Montague had all of the political leaders, and these had made a vigorous house-to-house canvass a few days before the assembling of the mass-meeting, and all whom they could not convert they sought to induce to stay away by making a personal matter of it. The result was that quite a number who did attend remained outside, while a large majority stayed at home, thinking it useless to wrangle against the politicians. These latter knew that it would be a political death-blow not to get into the Norfolk Convention, so every effort was made, and they succeeded in getting their wishes. The same old story is to be told over again—the politicians won out against the wishes of the people. Mr. Swanson had many ardent supporters but no "old stagers," the fight being managed by those new to such scenes. They did well, however, and the promises are that soon they will be felt as powerful political leaders.

Dr. LeCato could undoubtedly prescribe a good man for the general benefit of the State ticket.—*Richmond News*.

He could, undoubtedly, for second place. And his friends will place great weight in naming the man for the first place on the ticket, but whether they will act wisely or not is as yet uncertain. In instructing for him and no one else Northampton took the right tack, but we fear that the Montague sentiment controlling the delegates will rob him of the fruits it was intended he should reap from their public endorsement. It is no secret that Mr. Montague, in accepting the heavy campaign purse from Mr. Willard with which to run his campaign, received it with a tacit understanding that Willard is to be his running-mate. There is not a vestige of hope that our First District candidate will receive any favor at the hands of Mr. Montague should he control the Norfolk Convention—unless he proves traitorous to his pledges, as it is intimated he has in the past done. The Montague-Willard combination is as much "up against" the field as Mr. Montague is himself, and every vote that goes to help Mr. Montague organize the Norfolk Convention is that much against LeCato. Mr. Swanson has made no deals along this line, but political sagacity demonstrates that it is the gubernatorial-field-Jeffries-LeCato ticket that is to beat the Montague-Willard combine.

WHERE IGNORANCE IS BLISS.

Our dear friend, Parson Beazley, of the South Boston News, keeps hammering away on the Swanson "confidential" letters, unmindful that that sort of a campaign had "died a-borning." In contrast to these letters our good Baptist friend—We fear with more denominational zeal than political information—tries to show that Mr. Montague is no ringster and does not and will not use his office for political advancement.

In the first place the *News'* editor is at entire stranger to the methods being used by the district rings in this and a few other Congressional Districts of the State to compass Mr. Montague's election. What the candidate is holding up in holy horror to the outside is often practised with a vengeance in the places which he and his friends hold in their vest pockets. We have seen some of his private letters and it is really amusing to read how he declares against ringsters and their doings—and these letters are to First District people! If anything were needed to show that he will use his high position to further his gubernatorial and senatorial aspirations the partisan ringsters he has made in appointing some school superintendents of his personal knowing would be sufficient.

The *Southside Sentinel* has transformed (as it declares, and shows) from a "patent outside" to an "all-home print." The transformation is a subject for congratulation. But the greater cause of congratulation should be that our indefatigable friends who have in the past expended so much brawn and lubricant upon the merciless Washington hand-press have before them the prospect of a summer of enjoyment. The *CITIZEN* is pleased to learn, through private sources, that one of its "old boys"—H. Jeter Hayden—becomes a part owner under the new order of things, having purchased a third interest in the plant. Mr. Hayden should congratulate himself, not so much upon his rising to worldly affluence, as that he has gained the good-will of the people of his adopted home by his jolly good disposition, and that his efficiency and integrity have won the confidence and esteem of Mr. Ryland, editor and former sole-proprietor.

The Gordonsville *Gazette* seems not to have kept pace with the political pot that is running over in Virginia, since it wants Swanson contemporaries to specify Mr. Montague's charges and attacks on the Democratic organization. The types have been clinking with instances of his indiscreet tirade against the party, the sum and substance of which has been—"Elect me governor and I will overthrow this ring that has been running Virginia for twenty years (significantly omitted: which has given us a clean government, obliterated Mahoneism and kept me in office). I will build up a government of the people, by the people, and for—(me), a magnificent machine that is warranted not to rip, rust, ravel or rundown at the heel so long as my auburn head keeps above the daisies!"

There once lived a philosopher who could prove, to the entire satisfaction of his disciples, that two and two made seven. The method he used is said not to have been transmitted to posterity, but the way in which the esteemed *Richmond Times* daily figures out Mr. Montague's lead inclines us to the belief that the formula has been resuscitated. The manner in which its biased accounts of political meetings are swallowed by some people and small papers confirm us in the belief that gullible disciples can always be found for any creed or fallacy.

The policy adopted by Mr. Montague to contest all Swanson delegates that may be elected has fizzled in Franklin and Halifax counties. In both places—where there were no shadows of ground for contests—the Montague contesting delegates which were named have declined to serve, and as no others can be found to "stand up to the bit" the contests have had to be called off. The chairman of the bolters in Halifax refuses to further participate in the spurious efforts.

The magnificent endorsement which Lieutenant-Governor Echols received in Staunton and Augusta county, getting the 36 votes for Governor void of a second choice, demonstrates in what esteem he is held at his home. How different from the result at Mr. Montague's home, which repudiated him by a vote of four to one. The strong effort which Mr. Montague made in Augusta through friends and much letter-writing to get the delegation for second choice totally failed.

The oyster syndicate is growing and will soon be ready to incorporate under the laws of New Jersey. It is under new management and is therefore likely soon to mature into a full-fledged corporation.—*Fishing Gazette*.

We presume this is the northern combine that has for one of its principal objects the replenishing of northern beds with seed oysters, most of which it is hoped to procure from Virginia waters, notwithstanding the stringent laws against carrying them from this State.

Few Urbanians attended the Sunday school convention at Zor last Sunday on account of the special services going on in our town on that day.—*Southside Sentinel*.

We know that the *Sentinel* has originated a good many things for the bustling town of Urbanna, but if "Urbanians" is the best cognomen it can give its people we would respectfully suggest to its Business Men's Association that they would find "Urbanites" more in accordance with city proclivities.

Mr. Wesley Ball, keeper of the city almshouse, says he caught a bushel and a half of potato bugs off of one small patch.—*Fredericksburg Star*.

We will give the esteemed Fredericksburgers the palm for potato-bug yards, and they will suffer immunity so long as they do not trespass upon our fish-yarn prerogatives.

Senator Martin too seems to have lost faith in the machine, and it is stated, has "dropped out of the fight."—*Peninsula Enterprise*.

Why, we thought you told us he was the "machine," the great ogre and all such things combined!

POLITICAL.

A big Swanson club was organized Monday at Louisa Courthouse.

Northampton county elected delegates Monday and instructed only for LeCato.

Tillman protests against Governor McSweney's action, but withdraws his resignation and the incident is considered closed.

A proposition of Chief-Justice Fuller, of the Supreme Court, as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, is being made.

Senator Daniel deserves credit for refusing to go to Norfolk as a delegate from Campbell county instructed for Montague.

There must be a good many Virginia Democrats whose gorge rises at this campaign of false pretenses, but what can they do?—*New York Sun*.

It is estimated that one-fourth of the delegates to the Norfolk Convention will be contested. So far Mr. Montague has entered all the notices of contest.

No delegates have been chosen since Monday. The delegates now correctly stand: Montague 394, Swanson 243, Echols 70, Marshall 56, Doubtful (including the Newport News and Radford bogus contests) 61.

Goaded to reply to the uncalculated attacks of Montague Swanson answered the latter with so much spirit as to force the erstwhile outrageous attorney-general to crawl in his hole. Never since the debate at Boydton has Mr. Montague dared to meet his antagonist on the stump and the prediction is freely made that he never will meet him again. *Fredericksburg Star*.

The Staunton *News*, which is an anti-Swanson paper, in deprecating the use of one machine, has the following to say of the other: "It does not follow necessarily that Montague will be the successful man. He depends altogether on his ability to prove to the people that in fighting the boss he is fighting for the people and not for himself. He must make them believe there is no Montague bigger in the wood pile, which will be a difficult operation."

The position of the Northern Neck delegates instructed for LeCato is, no doubt, somewhat embarrassing to those gentlemen from the fact that they are also for Montague, and know that the ticket can hardly, under any circumstances, be Montague and LeCato. They would have best enhanced the Senator's chances by instructing for no gubernatorial candidate, but, as we have often said, the "powers that be in the First District" love LeCato less and Montague more. LeCato is apt to find more friends amongst the Swanson delegates. Lancaster than he is amongst the Montague delegates in the lower counties of the First District.—*Fredericksburg Star*.

Whatever else may be said in Mr. Montague's favor, he is no match for the Fifth District Congressman, whose training in rough-and-tumble argument and whose readiness at retort make him a dangerous antagonist. Then he has practiced at the bar with the present attorney-general, knows his characteristics, argument, and handles him with ease. Mr. Montague is pleading in address, speaks "sweet and insinuatingly," to quote Mr. Swanson's own characterization, but his forte is in addresses where eloquence and easy manners win the palm, not where one's statements are dissected on the spot and the remnants held up for public gaze.—*Richmond Correspondent*.

In his Danville speech Mr. Montague denounced lobbyists as unfit for public support, and men with pockets full of money. He further said: "I've got nothing for my friends and hold out no promises to them. I've paid my personal and political debts." We cannot reconcile these statements with the following facts: He claims to have lobbied for the employer's liability bill; he is running a canvass friendly to Mr. Willard, the biggest millionaire in Virginia; he has paraded out the sole of his shoes, and has been beyond a doubt to aid his candidacy and his friends. May we not doubt his sincerity in the face of these facts—unless it be the last one, that he has paid some of his political debts through school appointments?—*The Free Lance*.

When the campaign opened Attorney-General Montague was advised by his friends to make the issue plain and unmistakable, that the state was whether the people should be allowed to nominate their Governor or certain leaders should. This subject was discussed at several interviews between Montague and some of his friends. The latter invariably insisted upon his line of policy, and not only that, but it is to be noted that he so plain that no one could misunderstand its application. The Attorney-General adopted this course, got worsted, has refused to discuss the issues he made with his opponent, and to save his hide has declined the sorely circulated petition against joint debates in order to let him down easy in his refusal to meet Swanson.

The political vane has taken another turn. It has leaked out that the friends of Mr. Montague have been directed to bring up a contest from every point in which Mr. Swanson has the preponderance of strength. This has been lately exemplified in Radford, Franklin and Newport News—the former two admitting of not a shadow of justice for Mr. Montague. The idea is, that while Mr. Montague is in the lead the delegates of other candidates are to have their hands tied so that his majority of contested delegates will have the deciding vote, by which means he will be given enough to nominate on the first ballot. If this were not done his friends are fearful that, lacking enough to nominate on the first ballot, he will fail entirely. Up to the present time all contests have come from the Montague side. Friends will wonder why Swanson to adopt similar tactics, but he is loth to do what promises to produce a revolution in the politics of the State.

Women reformers met in Chicago the other day and the following are a few things they said: "Seven-eighths of the children born in this country should be killed." "Parents of nearly all our children are drunkards and bad women." "I know the judges of this country are subsidized."

Constitutional Convention Meets.

The fifth convention for the Commonwealth of Virginia convened in the hall of Houses of Delegates at noon Wednesday.

Not even a clever guess can be made as to the date of adjournment, for there are many questions of the greatest moment to be passed upon, and the final results are bound to be most important as affecting the future of the people of Virginia.

The convention was called to order by Colonel W. B. Pelti, the delegate from Fluvanna and Goodland. Hon. John Goode, of Bedford, was unanimously chosen permanent chairman. Mr. Goode's name was proposed by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Hon. J. W. Daniel, the latter having declined the honor. Colonel Patton, secretary of the State Senate, was made permanent secretary, without opposition.

Notwithstanding the great effort to keep politics out of the body they are gradually cropping out. Many of the leaders and members were identified with the May Conference movement of two years ago, and they are taking an active interest in the effects of the movement, though a failure at the time, are being felt in the present contest. It is thought best by many of the thinking members that the Convention had better sit some other place than Richmond in order to get away from the distracting influences of the present campaign.

The members from the First Congressional District, almost without exception, have been assigned seats on the outside rows. The daily papers of Richmond for Wednesday have portraits of all the members. The *Dispatch's* cut of Rev. W. F. Dunaway is the only one that is good of the delegates from the Northern Neck.

WE FRAMED THE FIRST. The fact is not generally known, perhaps, that Virginians 126 years ago framed the first Constitution in the history of the world. Other peoples had possessed and cherished a body of unwritten law, which restrained and withheld the hand of powerful and ruthless partisans in the law-making body, but to Virginians belong the credit of having first expressed in exact terms and in written words the principles of the laws by which they should be governed. There is no doubt that many of the exact words of that Constitution which was framed by the convention that assembled at Williamsburg on the day of May 1776, will be freely used in the Constitution which is to be framed by the present convention.

CAROLINE ANOTHER SNAPPER.

Beginning with Manchester Mr. Montague has conducted an almost uninterrupted campaign of interruptions—not to mention the bogus contests. Fredericksburg, Richmond county and Caroline are the notable instances of snap-conventions in the First District, where the political leaders pose as purists in politics and labor for a good name abroad. On Monday last the County Committee of Caroline was called to meet to decide upon time, etc., for the election of delegates. The county was strongly in sentiment for Swanson. The committee was for Montague by one majority. Upon majority the crowd at court having been "sized up," the committee by this small majority concluded to then and there hold a meeting for the election of delegates. It was done, against the protest of many of the best citizens and the delegates given to Montague, who was on hand to aid the unfair game.

SAID, BUT NOT REALIZED.

One of our esteemed Montague papers in the First District contains the following in a recent editorial: "To oppose one candidate simply because those who are locally antagonistic to one's individual views support him, is to sink a serious question into the mire of petty personal feeling. It is to do injustice often to the fair claims of a good man and results in lowering the tone of one's political character. It also disorganizes a party and tends to widen instead of heal such breaches as already exist."

This is true indeed and is going to be true—if such can be—before the campaign is over. Who began this fratricidal strife? What candidate's friends first opened the breach in this gubernatorial contest? What we are sure is a year ago is coming to pass and is being complicated by the gentleman who poses as the people's champion. The Democratic party is being torn in this State because one young man's overweening ambition urges him on—to win what he might wait for until he had earned the reward—even at the peril of his party's disruption.—*The Free Lance*.

AN IDEAL SHATTERED.

The following is from an anti-Swanson paper and gives a sample of the pure(?) politics which Mr. Montague is dealing out: "The disappointed plum seekers cannot but be aware from last Saturday's work at Richmond that a greater than Martin as a plum-tree shaker has appeared to attract; a new and striking luminary at noonday has appeared to discover the political spoils in the hitherto sacred precincts of the public school system and the nerve to parcel out the superintendencies of schools to further his chances for governor cannot but excite in their hearts as it should in a confidence that will obscure the abilities and kill the influence of Thomas S. Martin."—*Rockbridge News*.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The English force is large, but the South African armies are small and scattered to such an extent that only a kind of guerrilla warfare is possible. Very few battles are engaged in for the reason that the British can afford to lose ten men to the Boers' one. One of the bloodiest battles recently fought was when a force under Delarey attacked the English, under Dixon, at Vlakfontein. Thirty-five Boers were killed and the British casualty list was 174. Among the English dead are four officers, a captain and three lieutenants. This struggle is described as the most serious since Clements' reverse at Magalies-Berg.

NEWS ITEMS.

A combination of plow manufacturers is the latest evolution of the trust principle.

The grand State encampment of the Virginia Old Fellows convened at Staunton Tuesday.

After July 1st no stamps will be received on bank checks, promissory notes or deeds of trust. All uncancelled revenue stamps will be re-deemed.

More names will be added to the pension rolls for the fiscal year ending June 30th than last year, when the number reached 45,344.

Owing to promised scarcity of the western output, Virginia apples will be in great demand. Already, before the bloom has dropped, speculators are making offers to buy up the trees in this State.

McKinley in speaking to a French statesman recently said that he was no longer an ultraprotectionist. The United States had reached that period in its history when it became necessary to go out into the world and secure markets and the necessity of heavy protection had largely disappeared.

The new Pan-American two-cent postage stamp is making its appearance. In a few thousands of the first issue the picture of the engine on the stamp was printed upside-down. The Department has tried to call them in, but stamp collectors are paying as high as \$10 a piece for the misprint stamps.

THE OYSTER GROUNDS.

The *Hampton Monitor* says:

Peter C. Warwick, recently chosen surveyor for the State Oyster Board Fisheries, is busy completing arrangements for beginning the work of surveying the private oyster planting grounds of the State.

The board is investigated by order of the board a planter claimed and paid taxes on less than 200 acres when, as a matter of fact, he had about 1,700 acres.

Mr. Warwick estimates the total acreage of oyster lands in the State at 100,000, and the sea front of Accomac and Northampton are the most productive in the world. The planter who paid taxes on 200 acres of land and held 1,700 has cheated the State out of \$1,500 each year. There should be some way to secure this money. The Bay survey has been productive of much litigation, and the Board has been wise in ordering a new survey of all the grounds.

Westmoreland Co.

KINSALE.

Miss Virginia Walker, of Kinsale, is visiting friends in the vicinity of Hopside, Northumberland county. Jno. N. Claybrook, of this county,